

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 NRC-05 ERDA-05 OMB-01 /095 W

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P R 020158Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5253

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, PFOR, PARM, KS, FR, CA

SUBJECT: KOREAN NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

1. DONGA ILBO, JANUARY 31, DISCLOSED FOR FIRST TIME IN ROK
PRESS ROKG INTENTION CANCEL FRENCH REPROCESSING FACILITY.
FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT TONGA'S ARTICLE:

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN UP NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE
ON THE PURCHASE OF A PLUTONIUM RETREATMENT PLANT, FOREIGN
MINISTRY SOURCES SAID OVER THE WEEKEND.

THEY ADDED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT KOREA'S NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT PLAN,
PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE ON THE
IMPORT OF A PLUTONIUM RETREATMENT PLANT, IN CONNECTION
WITH THE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION BAN TREATY.

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THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS KNOWN TO HAVE

TURNED DOWN A WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC REQUEST FOR SELLING A
\$290 MILLION REACTOR TO KOREA IF KOREA BOUGHT A PLUTONIUM
RETREATMENT PLANT FROM FRANCE.

OTHER GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID THAT CANADA HAD SIGNED
WITH KOREA A TREATY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC POWER
FOR PEACEFUL USES BECAUSE KOREA GAVE UP ITS PLAN TO BUY
A PLUTONIUM RETREATMENT PLAN FROM FRANCE.

END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH VICE FONMIN LHO SHIN YONG
JANUARY 31, DCM SAID THAT COMPLAINTS TO PRESS BY ROKG
OFFICIALS THAT U.S. APPLIED PRESSURE ON REPROCESSING ISSUE
WERE UNWISE. DCM POINTED OUT THAT SUCH LEAKS WOULD TEND
TO KEEP ALIVE SUSPICIONS IN MINDS CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE IN
U.S. THAT KOREANS MADE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING DECISION
RELUCTANTLY AND THAT THEY WERE NOT TO BE TRUSTED IN NUCLEAR
MATTERS.
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